

Remarks

The Office Action mailed April 22, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 15 and 16 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 8, 18 and 20 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The objection to claim 5 due to an informality is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 has been amended to overcome the issue noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to claim 5 be withdrawn.

The objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) rejection moot.

The rejection of claims 1-13, 15, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johanson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,947,964) is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action cites Figures 10 and 14 of the Johanson et al. reference as disclosing certain features of the invention. The ears (45), (46) of the Johanson et al. connector (37), however do not meet the recitations of the claims as amended herein.

Claim 1 recites an electrical contact comprising "a body with a top surface, a bottom surface, and side edges, said body including opposing retention fingers formed integral with said body and having respective distal ends, each of said retention fingers adapted to secure said body to a single surface of an insulative carrier when said pair of retention fingers are inserted through the carrier, wherein said distal ends of said retention fingers face away from one another when secured to said carrier.

It is clear from Figure 10 of Johanson et al. that the ears (45), (46) face toward one another when secured to a terminal strip (35). It is respectfully submitted that Johanson et al. neither describes nor suggests the invention of claim 1 including distal ends of retention fingers

facing away from one another when secured to a carrier, together with the other recitations of claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Johanson et al.

Claims 2-7 and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 2-7 and 9-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 2-7 and 9-10 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Johanson et al.

Claim 8 is cancelled.

Moreover, claim 2 further recites a wire retainer joined to said body and axially extending from said body, said wire retainer configured to receive a wire along an axis of said body. It is clear that element (43) of Johanson et al. does not extend axially from the connector (37), but rather extends at an angle to an axis of the connector (37). Element (43) of Johanson et al. also is not configured to receive a wire along an axis of the connector, but rather is connectable to a wire extending perpendicular to the element (43).

Claim 7 recites that the retention fingers are stamped from an interior of said body and are bent to engage a single surface of said carrier. The ears (45), (46) of the Johanson et al. connector (37) are not stamped from an interior of the connector (37) but rather extend from end edges of the connector.

Claim 9 recites that the retention fingers are arcuate, and further that only the distal ends of the retention fingers contacts are in contact with the single surface of the carrier. The Johanson et al. connector does not meet this recitation. As Figure 10 clearly shows, the entirety of the ears (45) and (46) extending below the lower surface of the terminal strip (35), and not just the ends of the ears, are in contact with the carrier lower surface. Additionally, the Johanson et al. ears appear to include right angle bends and straight sections extending from the bends. It is respectfully submitted that the configuration of the connector, or more specifically the ears of the connector, are not fairly characterized as arcuate in the ordinary sense of the word.

Claim 11 recites "an electrical connector comprising at least one contact having a body with a top surface, a bottom surface, and side edges, said body including at least a pair of lances formed integrally from an interior of said body, said lances configured to secure said body to an insulative carrier, said carrier including a first surface and a second surface, said bottom surface of said body provided on said first surface of said carrier; wherein said lances are crimped to said second surface."

As noted above, the ears (45), (46) of the Johanson et al. connector (37) are not formed from an interior of the connector (37) but rather extend from end edges of the connector.

Claim 11 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Johanson et al.

Claims 12-13 and 15-16 depend from claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 12-13 and 15-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 12-13 and 15-16 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Johanson et al.

Moreover, claim 12 recites a wire retainer joined to and axially extending from said body, said wire retainer configured to receive a wire. It is clear that element (43) of Johanson et al. does not extend axially from the connector (37), but rather extends at an angle to an axis of the connector (37).

Claim 18 is cancelled

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-13, 15, 16 and 18 as unpatentable over Johanson et al. be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johanson et al. is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 is cancelled. Applicants accordingly request that the rejection of claim 20 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Engel (U.S. Patent No. 2,869,107) is respectfully traversed.

Engel discloses a contact member (12) having legs (26), (27) and depending tabs (30), (31). When inserted through openings in a circuit board, the tabs (30), (31) are twisted to draw the legs (26), (27) against the board. In Figure 6, the tabs (30), (31) are twisted in an aligned manner wherein the tabs (30), (31) extend parallel to one another. As such, distal ends of the tabs (30), (31) do not face away from one another as claim 1 recites.

Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Engel.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mathews (U.S. Patent No. 3,492,628) is respectfully traversed.

Mathews describes a fuse clip (11) having tags (14) extending from the side edges thereof. The distal ends of the tags (14), as clearly shown in Figure 2, face toward one another when secured to a board (15) and not away from one another as claim 1 recites. Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Mathews.

Further, the tags (14) of the Mathews clip (11) clearly extend from end edges of a base (12) of the clip, and are not formed integrally from an interior of a body as claim 11 recites. Claim 11 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Mathews.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of claim 1 and 11 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce T. Atkins
Armstrong Teasdale, LLP
One Metropolitan Square
Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
314-621-5070